

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for administering devices, the method comprising:

creating a user metric vector comprising a plurality of disparate user metrics;

5 creating a user metric space comprising a plurality of metric ranges

receiving, from a user, a value for a user preference for a device;

10 determining whether a user metric vector is outside the user metric space;

if the user metric vector is outside a user metric space, identifying an action;

executing the action; and

15 setting the value of a user preference for a device in dependence upon the
value received from the user.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein receiving, from a user, a value for a user
preference for a device comprises:

detecting a device; and

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identifying a user preference the device supports.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein detecting a device comprises polling an interface.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein receiving, from a user, a value for a user preference for a device comprises

providing the user with a prompt for a value of a user preference; and

- 5 obtaining, from the user, the value of the user preference in response to the prompt.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein receiving, from a user, a value for a user preference for a device comprises storing the value of the user preference.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein setting the value of a user preference on a device in dependence upon the value received from the user comprises:

detecting a device;

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identifying a user preference that the device supports;

retrieving a value for the user preference for the device from a user preference table; and

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changing the value of the user preference for the device in dependence upon the retrieved value.

7. A system for administering devices, the system comprising:

means for creating a user metric vector comprising a plurality of disparate user metrics;

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means for creating a user metric space comprising a plurality of metric ranges

means for receiving, from a user, a value for a user preference for a device;

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means for determining whether a user metric vector is outside the user metric space;

if the user metric vector is outside a user metric space, means for identifying an action;

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means for executing the action; and

means for setting the value of a user preference for a device in dependence upon the value received from the user.

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8. The system of claim 7 wherein means for receiving, from a user, a value for a user preference for a device comprises:

means for detecting a device; and

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means for identifying a user preference the device supports.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein means for detecting a device comprises means for polling an interface.

10. The system of claim 7 wherein means for receiving, from a user, a value for a user preference for a device comprises

means for providing the user with a prompt for a value of a user preference;

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means for obtaining, from the user, the value of the user preference in response to the prompt.

11. The system of claim 7 wherein means for receiving, from a user, a value for a user preference for a device comprises means for storing the value of the user preference.

12. The system of claim 7 wherein means for setting the value of a user preference on a device in dependence upon the value received from the user comprises:

means for detecting a device;

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means for identifying a user preference that the device supports;

means for retrieving a value for the user preference for the device from a user preference table; and

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means for changing the value of the user preference for the device in dependence upon the retrieved value.

13. A computer program product for administering devices, the computer program product comprising:

a recording medium;

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means, recorded on the recording medium, for creating a user metric vector comprising a plurality of disparate user metrics;

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means, recorded on the recording medium, for creating a user metric space comprising a plurality of metric ranges

means, recorded on the recording medium, for receiving, from a user, a value for a user preference for a device;

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means, recorded on the recording medium, for determining whether a user metric vector is outside the user metric space;

if the user metric vector is outside a user metric space, means, recorded on the recording medium, for identifying an action;

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means, recorded on the recording medium, for executing the action; and

means, recorded on the recording medium, for setting the value of a user preference for a device in dependence upon the value received from the user.

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14. The computer program product of claim 13 wherein means, recorded on the recording medium, for receiving, from a user, a value for a user preference for

a device comprises:

- 5 means, recorded on the recording medium, for detecting a device; and
- means, recorded on the recording medium, for identifying a user preference the device supports.
15. The computer program product of claim 14 wherein means, recorded on the recording medium, for detecting a device comprises means, recorded on the recording medium, for polling an interface.
16. The computer program product of claim 13 wherein means, recorded on the recording medium, for receiving, from a user, a value for a user preference for a device comprises
- 5 means, recorded on the recording medium, for providing the user with a prompt for a value of a user preference; and
- means, recorded on the recording medium, for obtaining, from the user, the value of the user preference in response to the prompt.
17. The computer program product of claim 13 wherein means, recorded on the recording medium, for receiving, from a user, a value for a user preference for a device comprises means, recorded on the recording medium, for storing the value of the user preference.
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18. The computer program product of claim 13 wherein means, recorded on the recording medium, for setting the value of a user preference

- 5 means, recorded on the recording medium, for detecting a device;
- means, recorded on the recording medium, for identifying a user preference that the device supports;
- 10 means, recorded on the recording medium, for retrieving a value for the user preference for the device from a user preference table; and
- means, recorded on the recording medium, for changing the value of the user preference for the device in dependence upon the retrieved value.